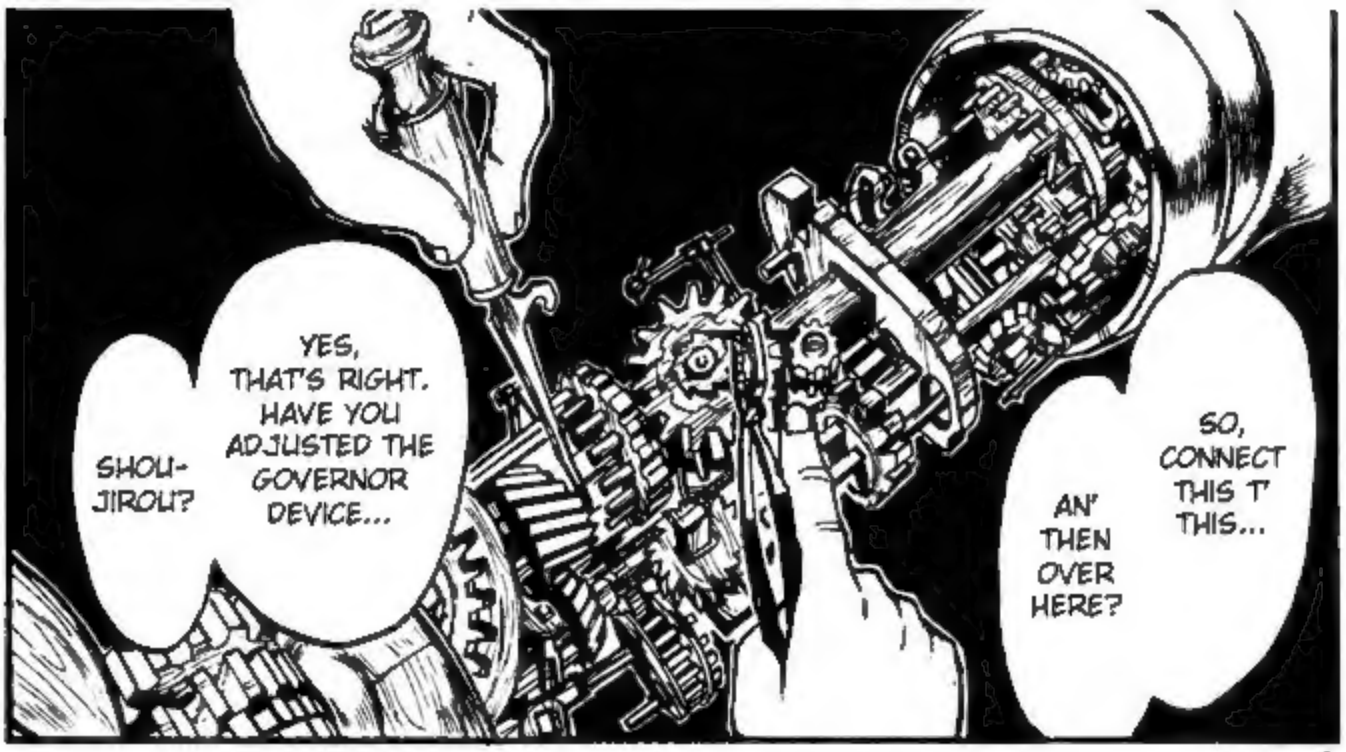

VERY GOOD.
THAT'S WHAT YA TAUGHT ME THAT TIME WE TOOK A KARAKURI CLOCK APART 'N' LEARNED ABOUT ESCAPEMENTS.
IF YA GET CARELESS HERE, ITS MOVEMENTS WON'T BE LIKE A HUMAN'S.
YES, SEN-SEI.

第11幕 ACT 11

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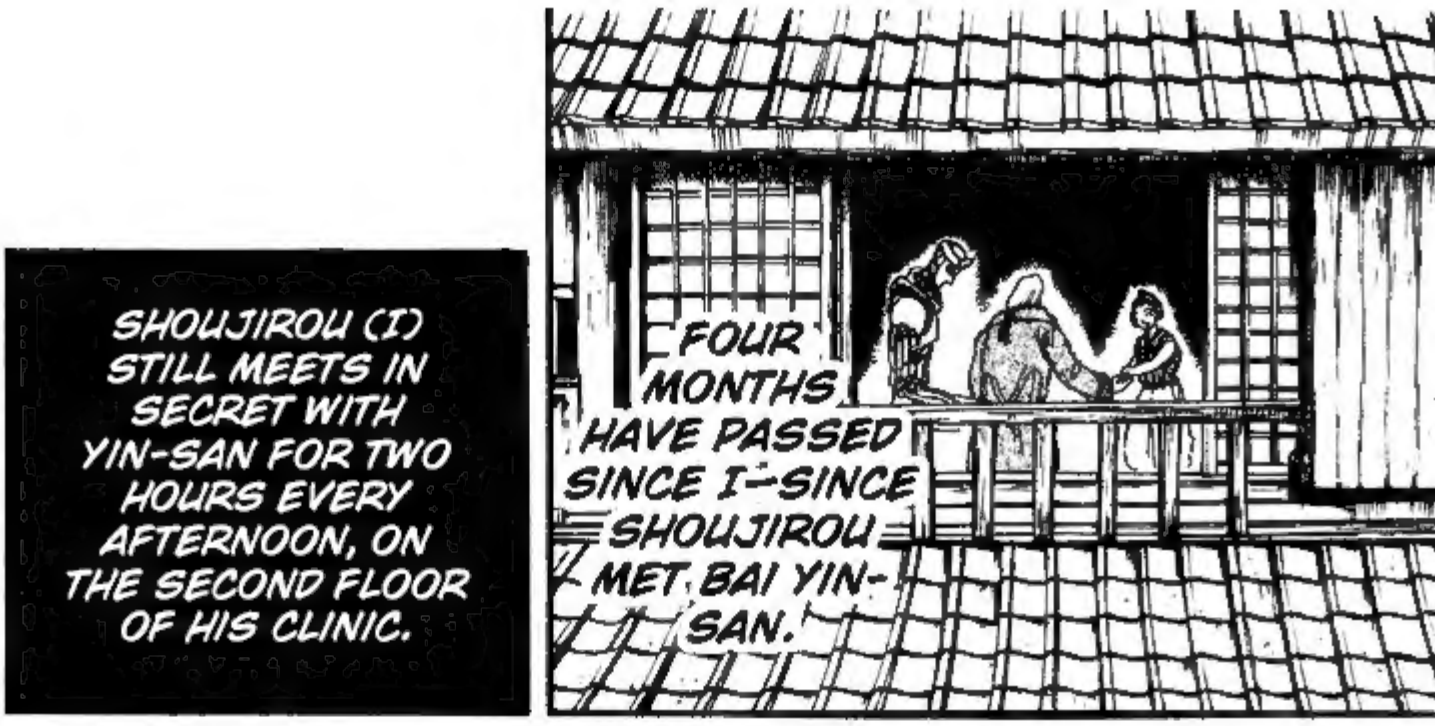
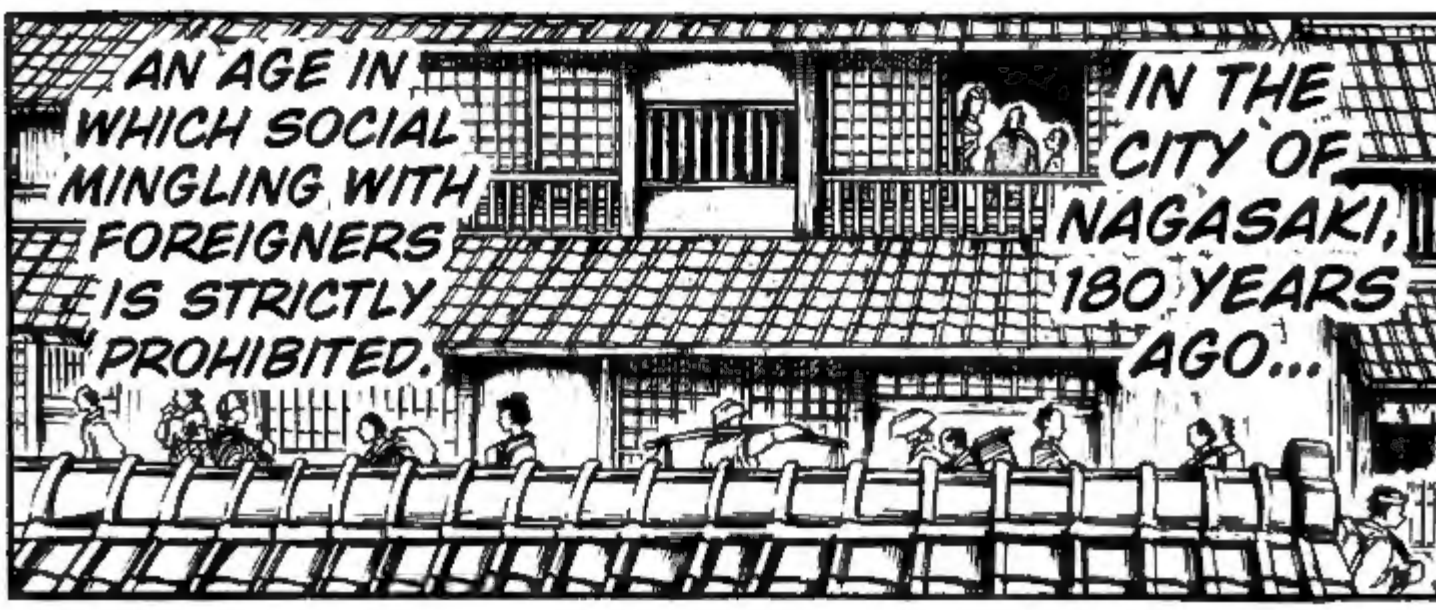
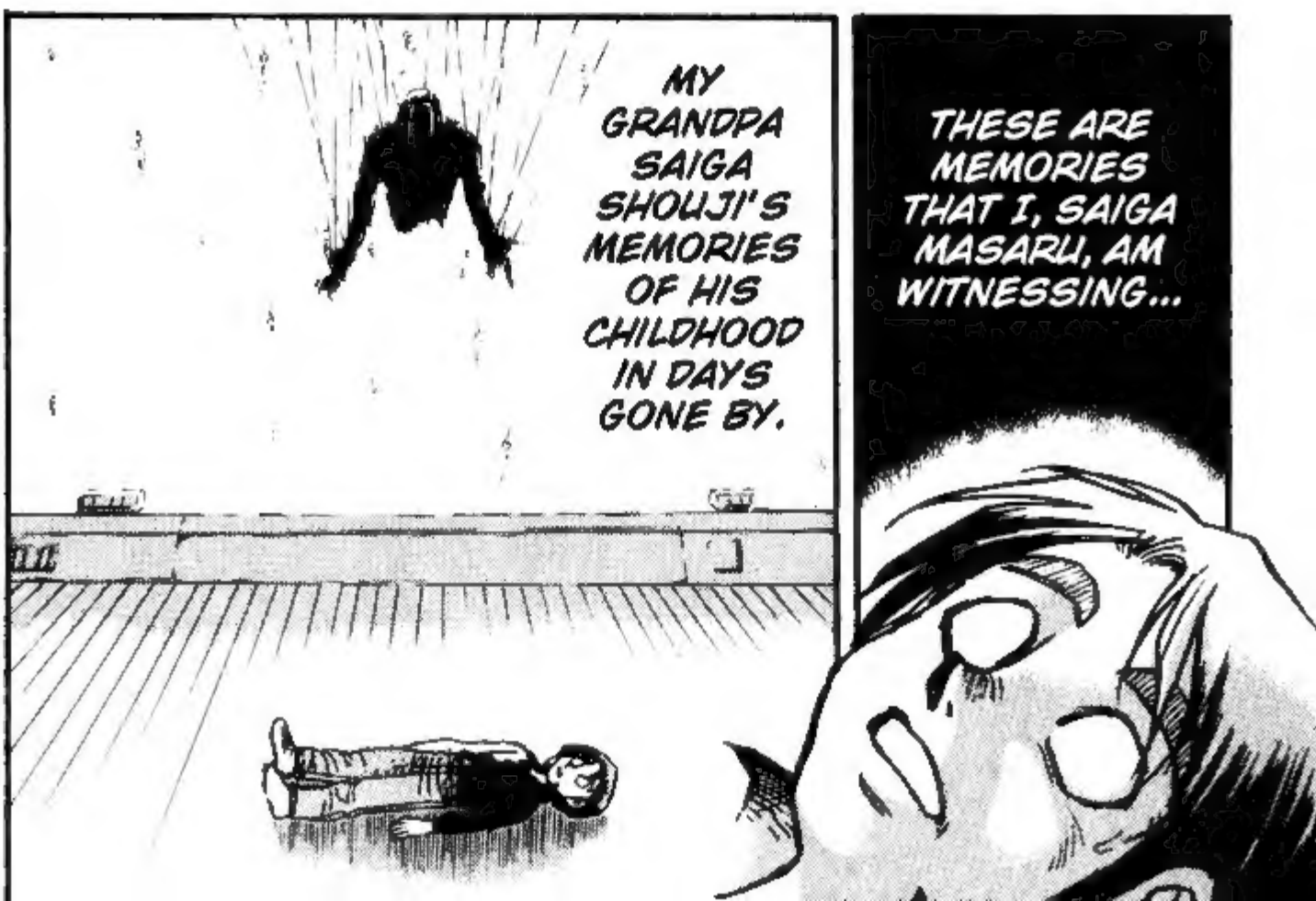
THE FIRST SHIROGANE


SHOUJIROU (I) STILL MEETS IN SECRET WITH YIN-SAN FOR TWO HOURS EVERY AFTERNOON, ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF HIS CLINIC.
FOUR MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE I--SINCE SHOUJIROU MET BAI YIN-SAN.


AN AGE IN WHICH SOCIAL MINGLING WITH FOREIGNERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
IN THE CITY OF NAGASAKI, 180 YEARS AGO...


MY GRANDPA SAIGA SHOUJI'S MEMORIES OF HIS CHILDHOOD IN DAYS GONE BY.
THESE ARE MEMORIES THAT I, SAIGA MASARU, AM WITNESSING...

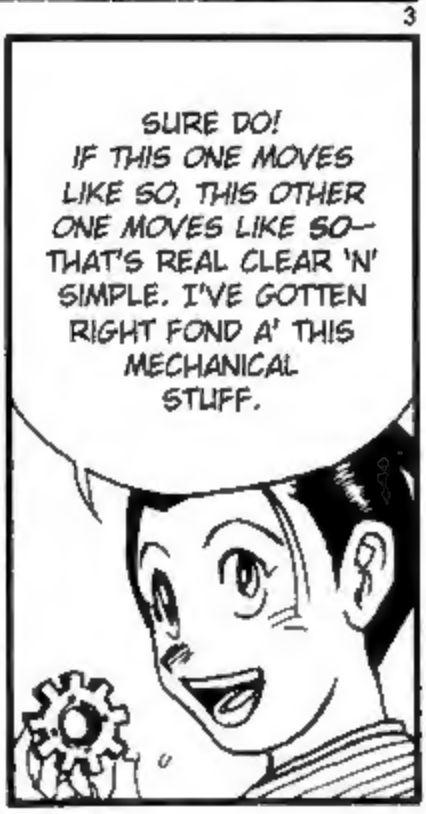
THOSE ARE MY MEMORIES OF WHEN IT ALL BEGAN...
ARE YOU WATCHING ...?

DO YOU LIKE KARAKURI DOLLS?
THESE GEARS'RE MADE REAL CLEVER, SENSEI.
WHEN THEY'RE MOVIN' TOGETHER JUST RIGHT, EVERYTHIN' JUST WORKS ALL NEAT 'N' CLEAN.

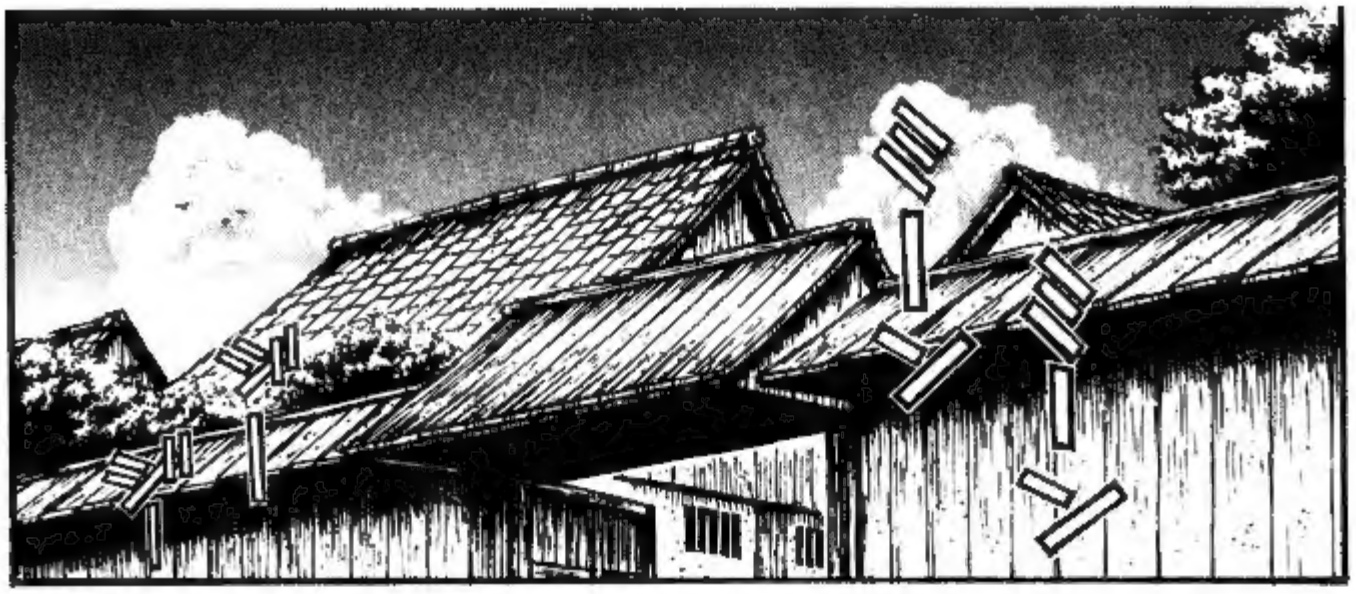
3

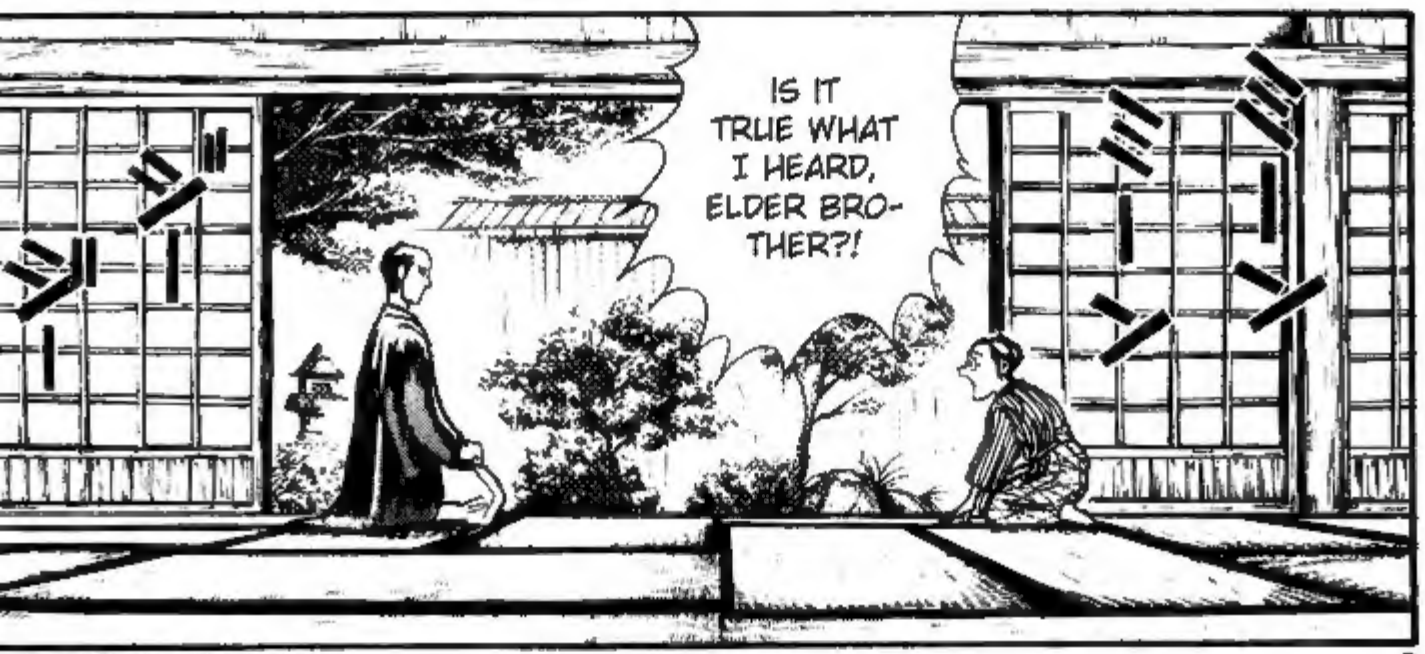
"TO TH'VERY FINISH"...? YOU'RE A VERY THOROUGH PERSON, SHOUJIROU.

I JUST FELT LIKE THIS GUY WANTED TO KEEP ON BEIN' BUILT RIGHT TO TH'VERY FINISH.
I WAS QUITE SURPRISED WHEN YOU SUGGESTED TRYING YOUR HAND AT PUPPET-BUILDING.


SURE DO! IF THIS ONE MOVES LIKE SO, THIS OTHER ONE MOVES LIKE SO— THAT'S REAL CLEAR 'N' SIMPLE. I'VE GOTTEN RIGHT FOND A' THIS MECHANICAL STUFF.

YOU MUST BE...
VERY FOND OF YOUR OLDER BRO-THER.
"NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, YA GOTTA SEE IT THROUGH GOOD 'N' THOROUGH TO TH'VERY FINISH!" THAT'S WHAT MY BIG BROTHER'S ALLUS SAYIN'.
I SEE ...
.....
...MY PAW'S ALLUS CALLIN' ME USELESS, BUT...
MY BIG BROTHER TELLS ME, "DON'T LISTEN T' THAT. YA KIN MAKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA ANYTHIN', LONG AS YA SEE IT THROUGH TO TH'VERY FINISH."
4
THERE'S SOME-THING THAT HAS ME A TRIFLE CONCER-NED.
HUH?
SHOU-JIROU, ON THE SUBJECT OF YOUR OLDER BROTHER ...
This goes like this...





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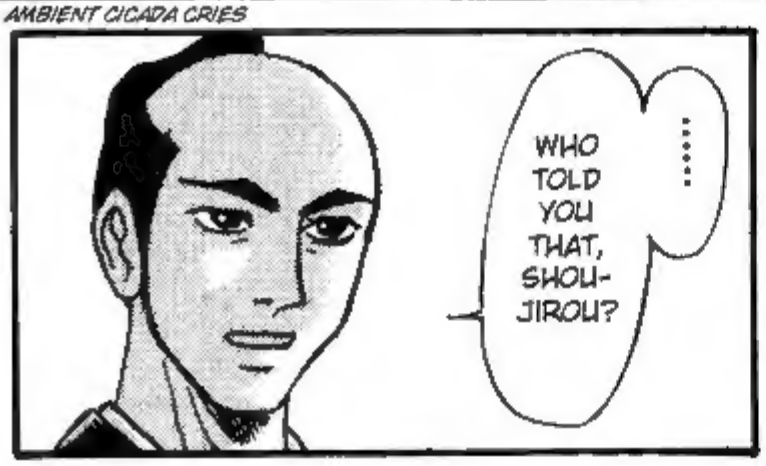

IF YA HAVE, THAT'S CONTRABAND! SENDIN' ANYTHIN' OUTSIDE A' TH' COUNTRY IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!
HAVE YA REALLY GIVEN MAPS 'N' TRAVELER'S JOURNALS OF JAPAN 'N' SAKHALIN TO A DUTCH DOCTOR SO HE'LL TEACH YA 'BOUT MEDICAL SCIENCE?!

DON'TCHA KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YA, ELDER BROTHER? WHADDYA THINK'LL HAPPEN IF THE AUTHORITIES FIND OUT?!

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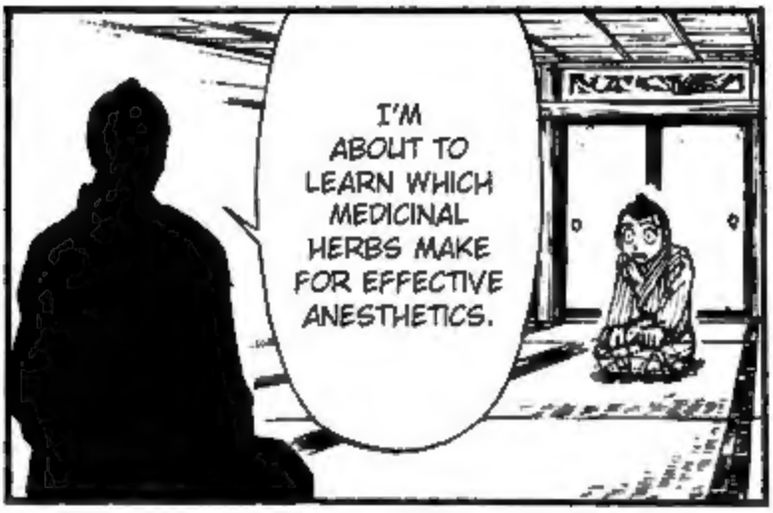
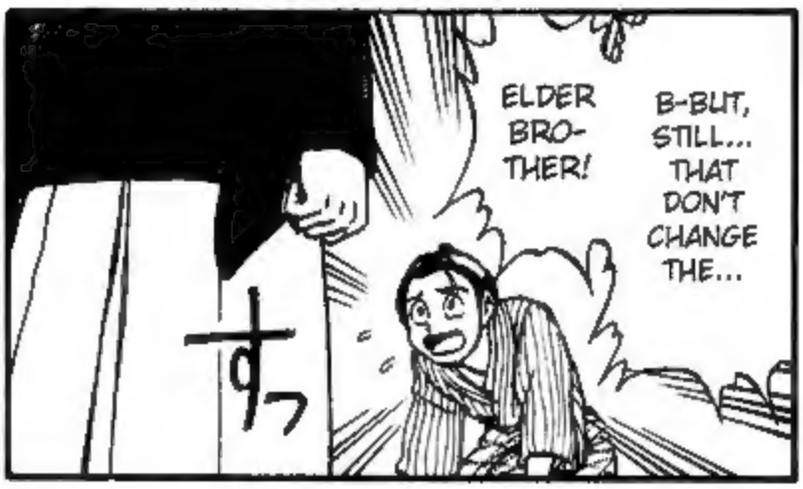

I'M ABOUT TO LEARN WHICH MEDICINAL HERBS MAKE FOR EFFECTIVE ANESTHETICS.

……
IT'S ALL FOR THE SAKE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE …

PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET …
SHOU-JIROU.


ELDER BRO-THER!
B-BUT, STILL… THAT DON'T CHANGE THE…

ELDER BRO-THER …

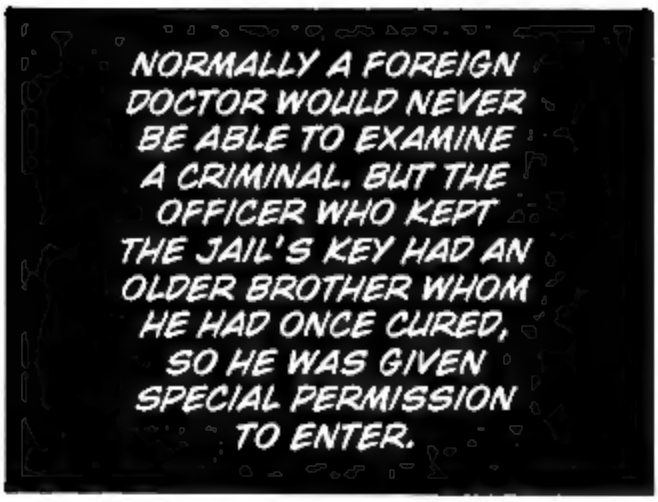
ELDER BRO-THER!

A MAN WAS ARRESTED FOR ILLEGALLY PASSING BOOKS TO A DUTCHMAN IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS KNOWLEDGE OF PHARMACEUTICALS.

ON NOVEMBER 16TH OF THE 13TH YEAR OF THE BUNKA PERIOD...

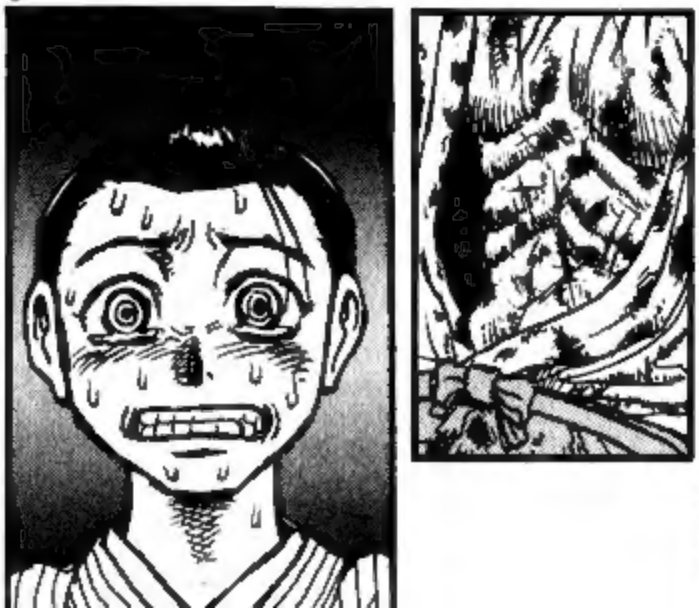
SHOUJIROU'S (MY) OLDER BROTHER WAS AMONG THOSE WHO BECAME ILL. SINCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS ONGOING, SPECIAL ALLOWANCE WAS MADE FOR HIM TO RECEIVE MEDICAL ATTENTION.
ｷｨ ｨ ｨ

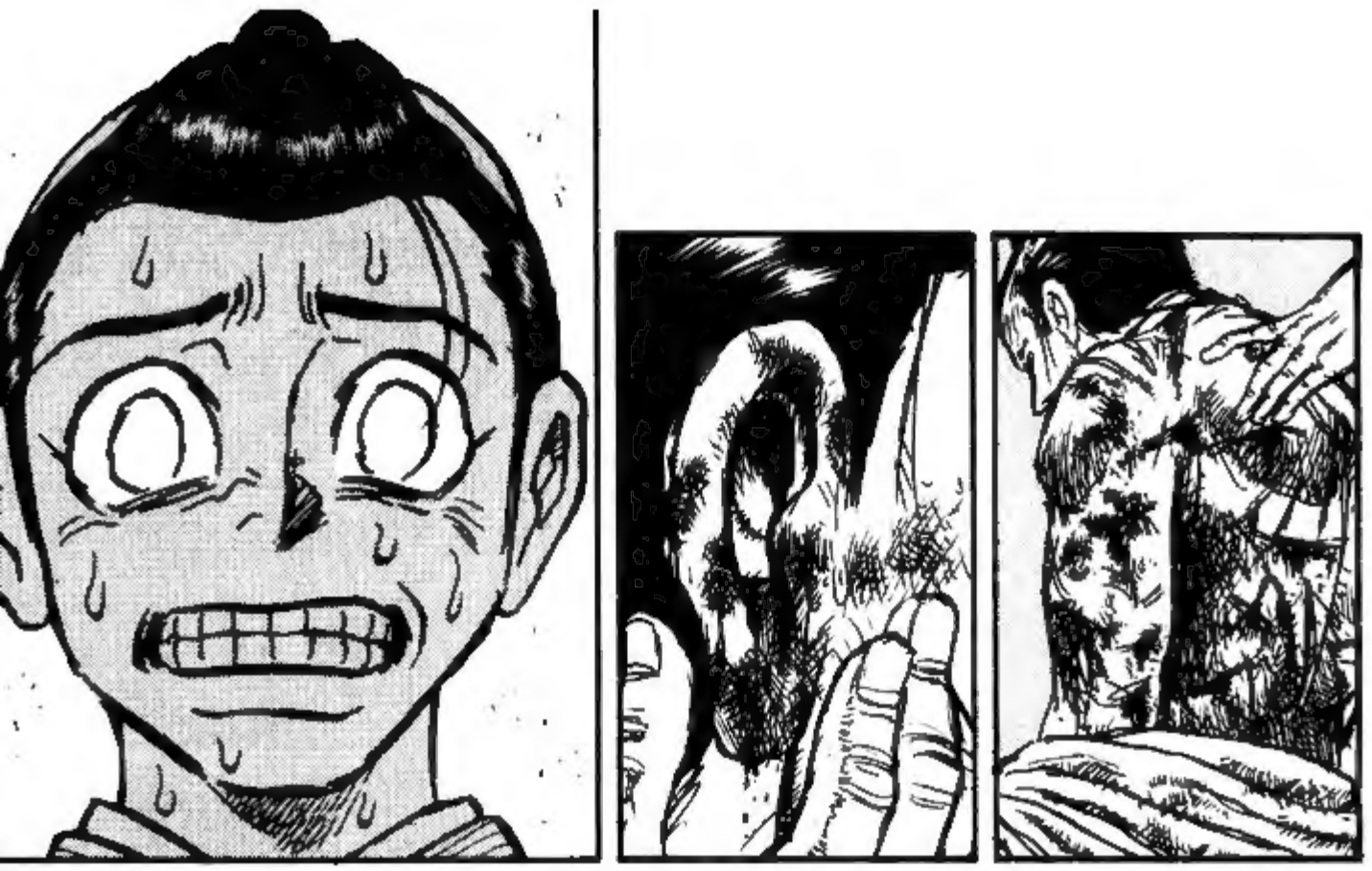
IN THOSE DAYS, INTERROGATION WAS ESSENTIALLY TORTURE. IN ADDITION, THE INCARCERATED OFTEN SUCCUMBED TO ILLNESS, THEIR BODIES WEAKENED BY THE COLD, FILTHY CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE KEPT.


NORMALLY A FOREIGN DOCTOR WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO EXAMINE A CRIMINAL. BUT THE OFFICER WHO KEPT THE JAIL'S KEY HAD AN OLDER BROTHER WHOM HE HAD ONCE CURED, SO HE WAS GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO ENTER.

NONE OF THE CITY'S DOCTORS WERE WILLING TO ATTEND TO PRISONERS BECAUSE THEY WERE SO UNSANITARY. BUT YIN-SAN VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF...

SHOU-JIROU (I) WAS AS WELL.
AND THANKS TO YIN-SAN...

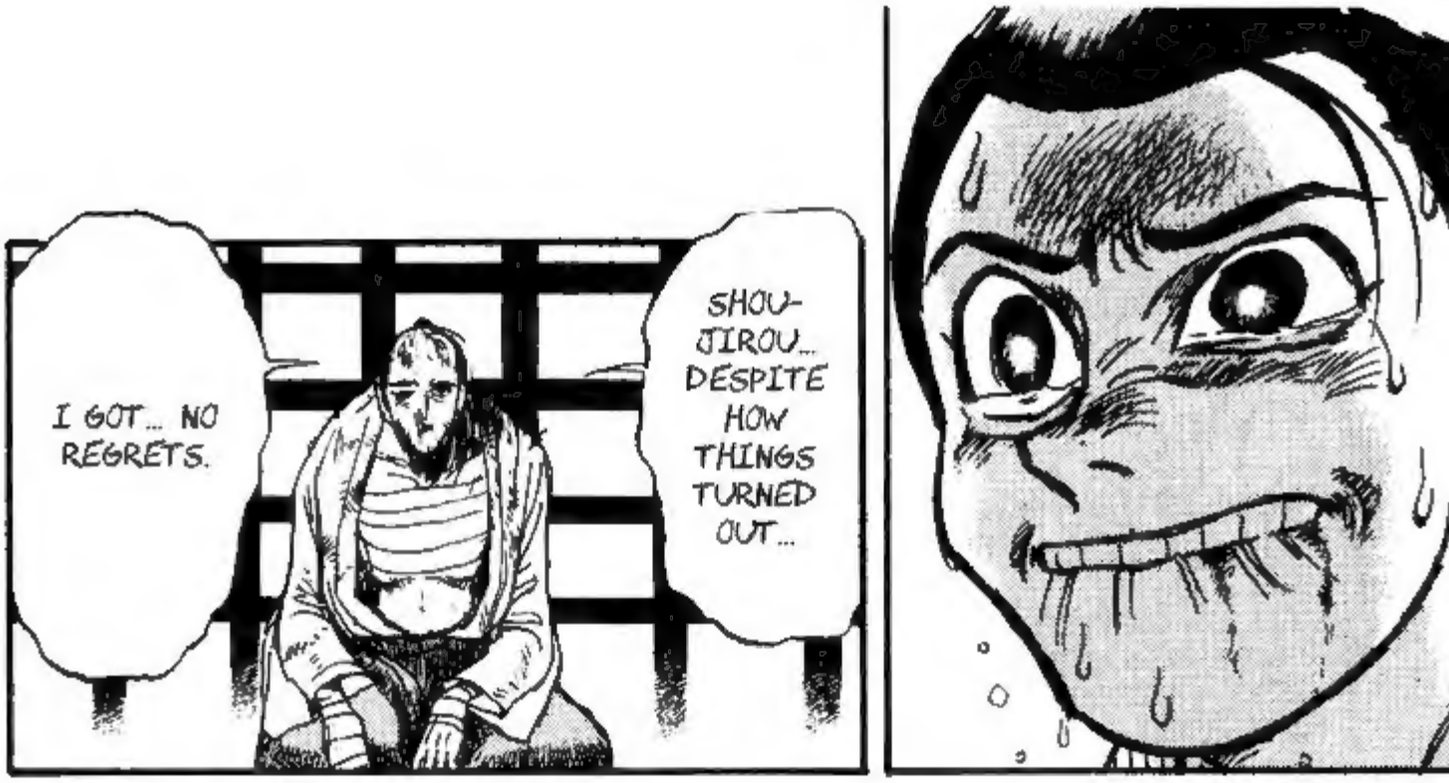




SHOU...
JIROU...

9

...JUST A FEW WORDS, AND I'LL BE DONE...
MMH...
PRISONERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK!
ELDER BROTHER ...



10

IN APRIL OF THE 14TH YEAR OF THE BUNKA PERIOD, HIS BROTHER'S CONDITION WORSENED AND HE DIED.

THAT WAS IT. SHOUJIROU (I) NEVER SAW HIS BROTHER AGAIN.

THE REMAINS WERE SALTED AND PRESERVED FOR A PERIOD OF SCRUTINY.

HE LOOKED ON RESOLUTELY FROM START TO FINISH, EVEN FROM OUTSIDE THE EXECUTION GROUNDS.
SHOUJIROU (I) KEPT ON WATCHING THE ENTIRE TIME.
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IN MAY, WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER...
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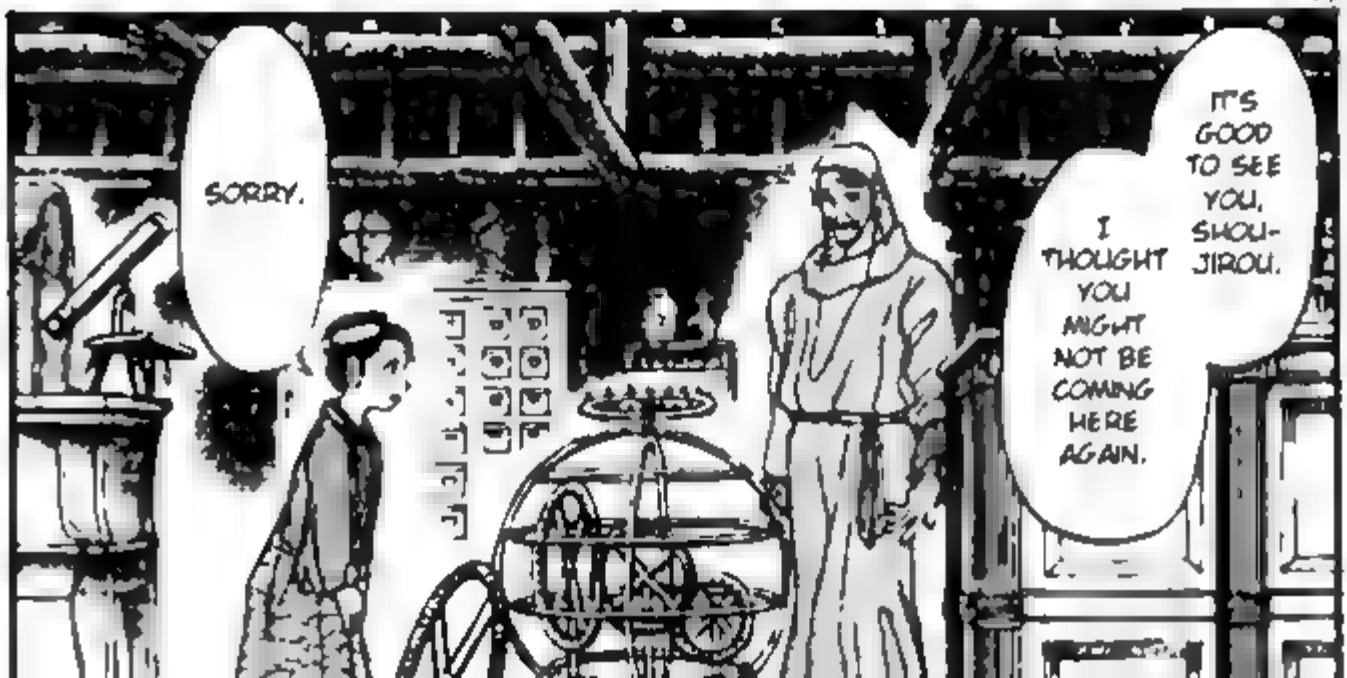
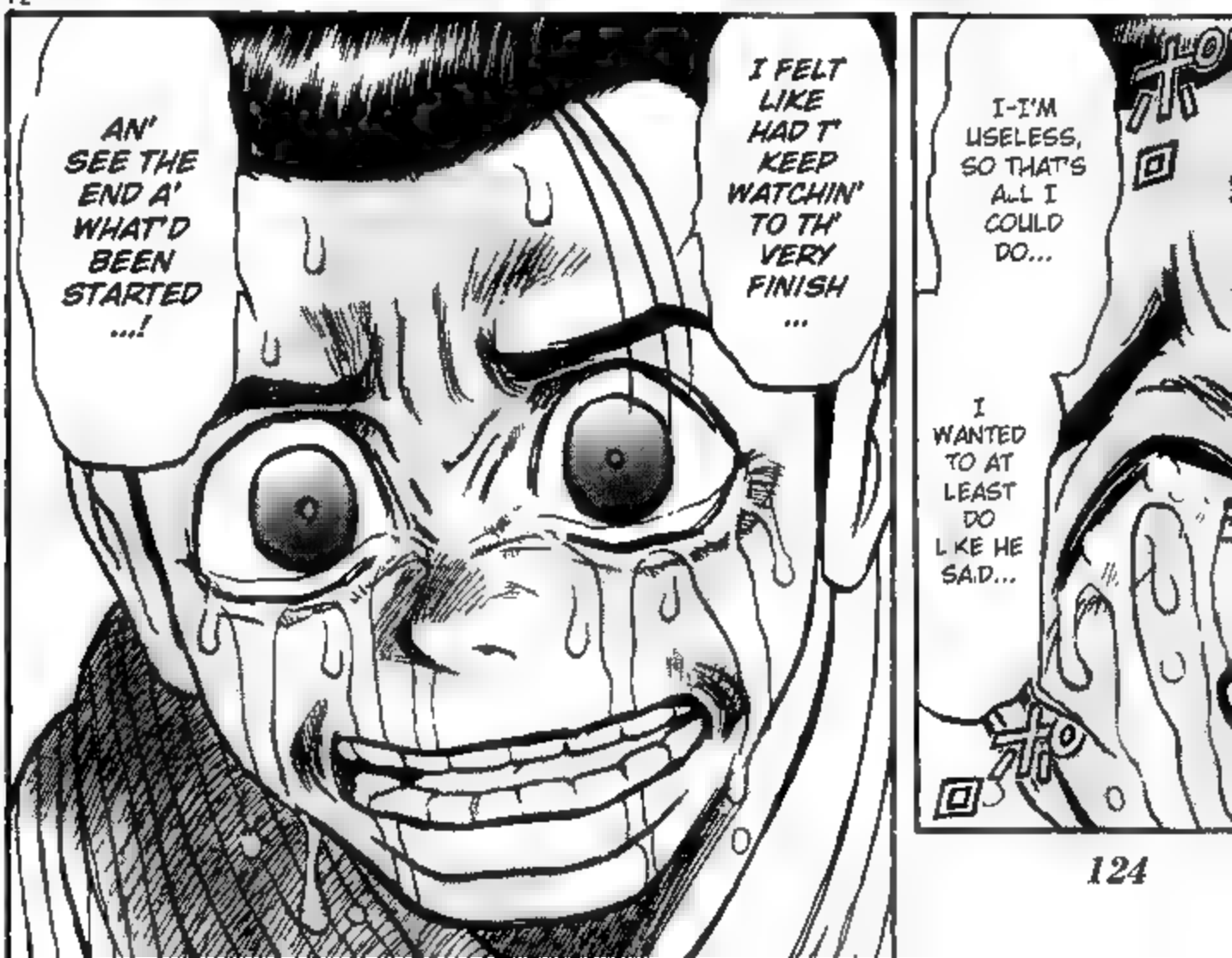
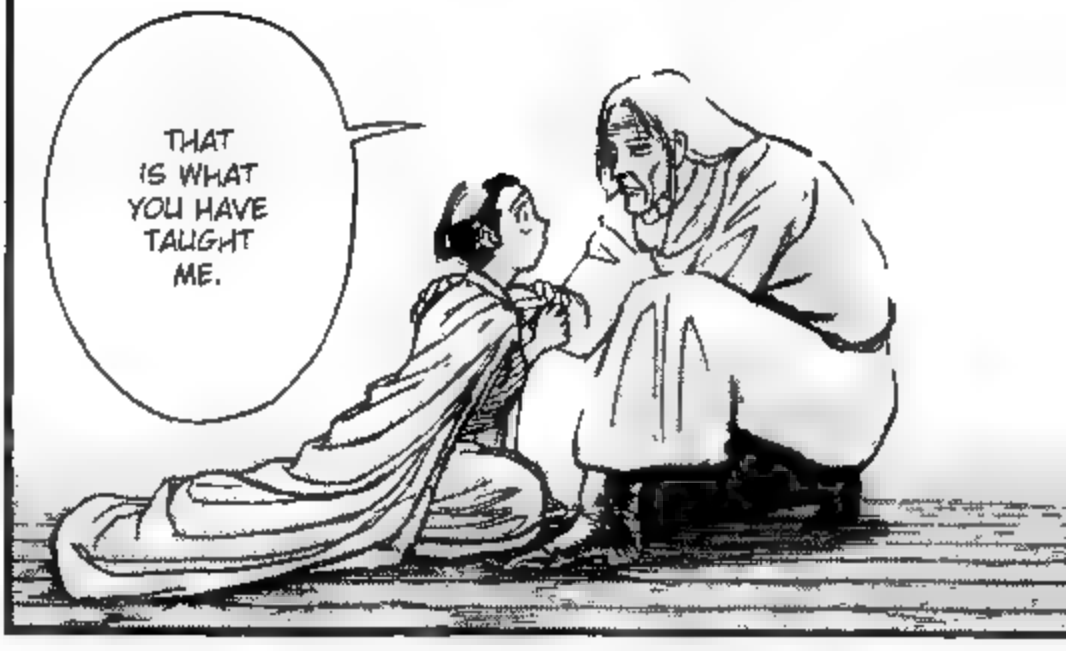

SORRY.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT BE COMING HERE AGAIN.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, SHOU-JIROU.

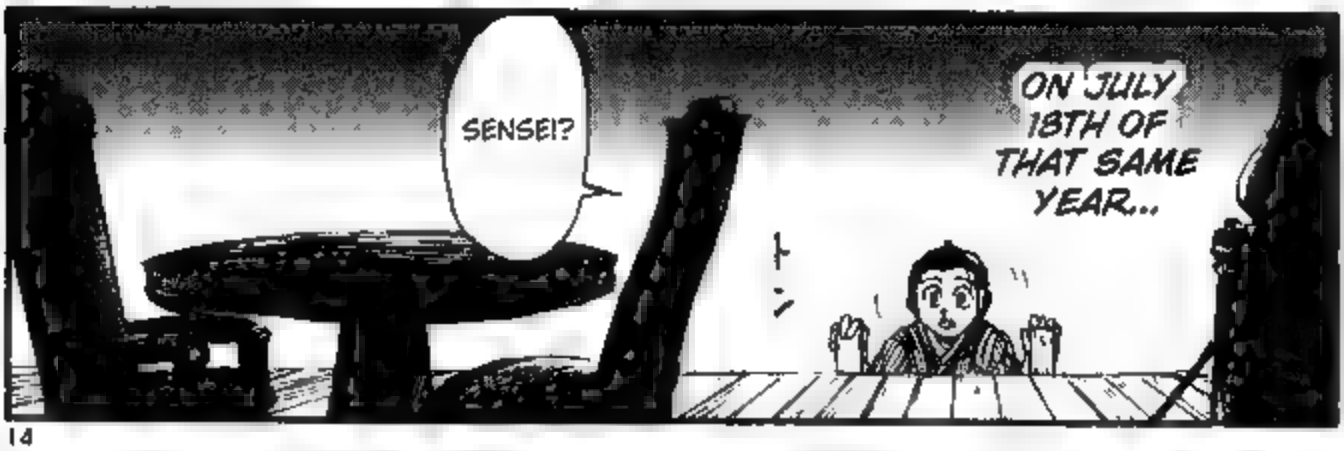
JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS SAID. "TO TH'VERY FINISH..."
WHAT HE STAR-TED?
I HAD T'SEE OUT WHAT MY BROTHER STARTED... SO I COULDN'T COME.
SO YOU WATCHED THE WHOLE THING CLOSELY...

12


AN' SEE THE END A' WHAT'D BEEN STARTED ...!
I FELT LIKE HAD T' KEEP WATCHIN' TO TH' VERY FINISH ...
I-I'M USELESS, SO THAT'S ALL I COULD DO...
I WANTED TO AT LEAST DO LIKE HE SAID...

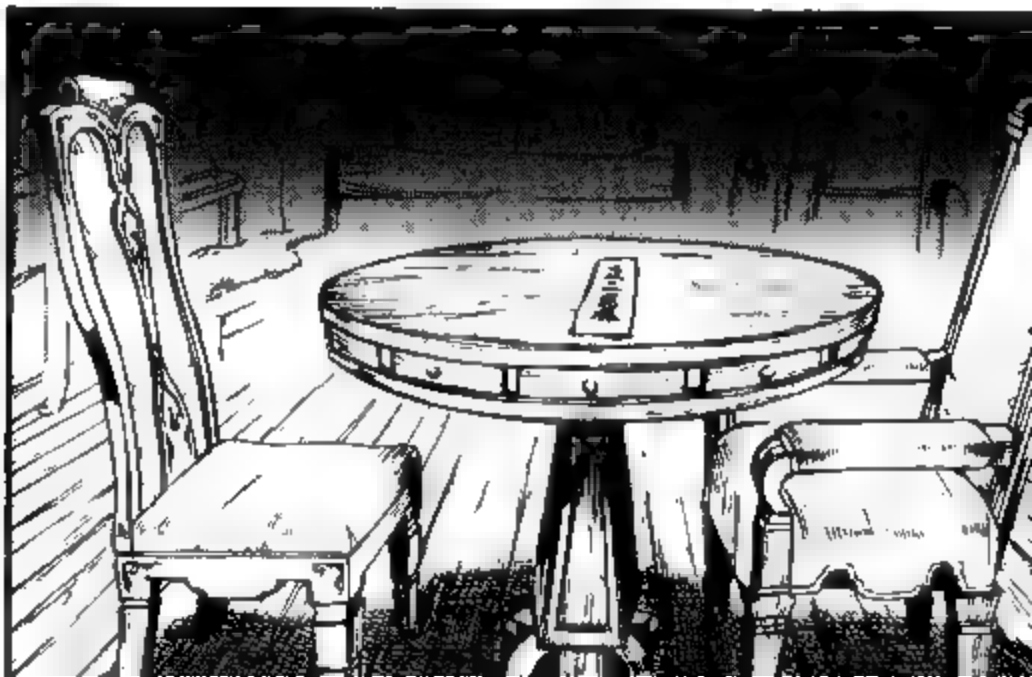
I KEPT WATCHIN', ELDER BROTHER ...
I KEPT MY EYES WIDE OPEN...!
YOU ARE NOT USELESS.
SENSEI...
13
YOU ARE THE REAL "SENSEI" HERE, SHOUJI-ROU.
HUH?
THOSE WHO ARE CLOSELY TIED TO AN EVENT MUST SEE IT THROUGH WITH THEIR OWN EYES UNTIL THE VERY END.
WHETHER THEY WILL OR NO; NO MATTER HOW HARD IT MAY BE...

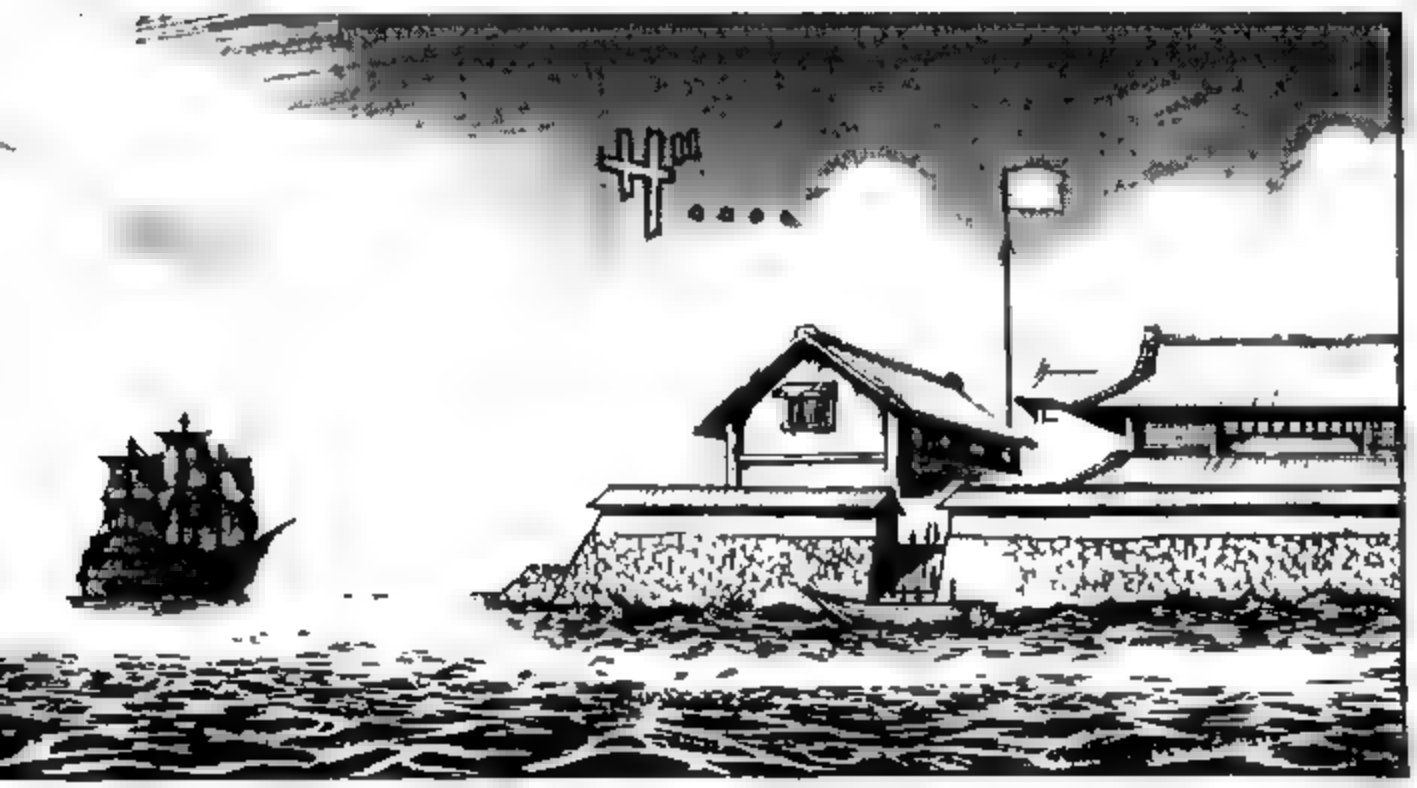




14

TEXT: SHOUJIROU-SAMA





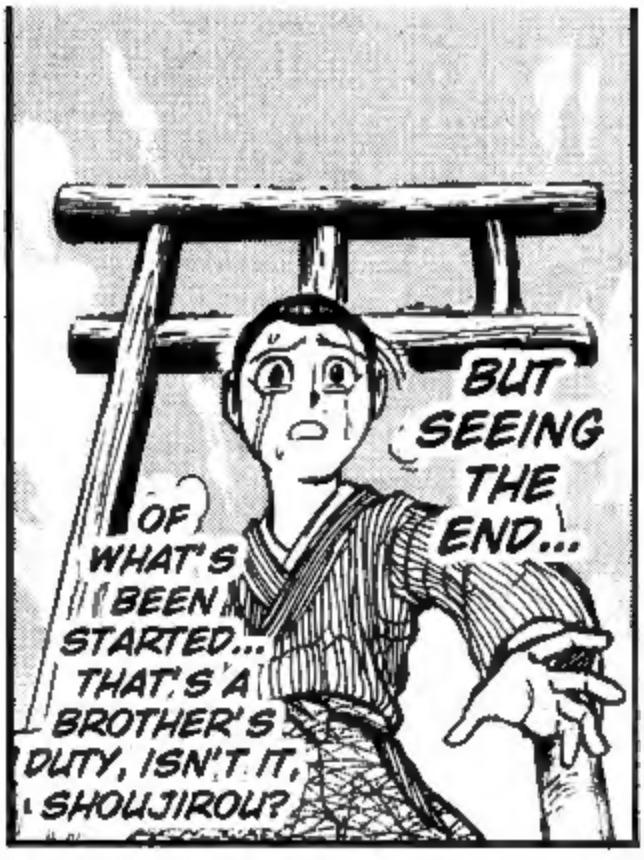
I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND TO RETURN TO HOLLAND. I WILL BE DEPARTING TODAY BY BOAT.

DEAR SHOU-JIROU-SAMA:

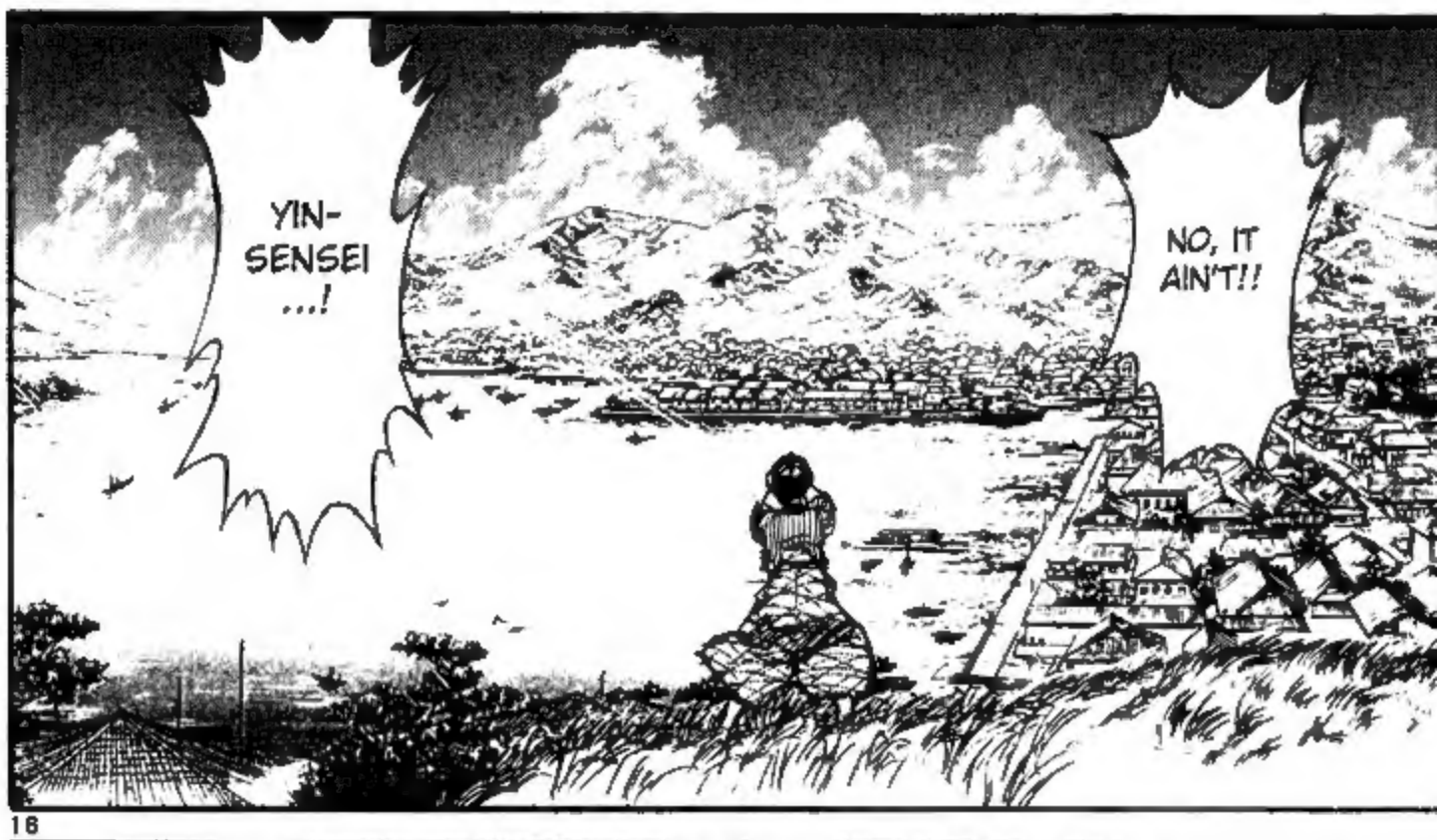
I DID NOT WANT TO BID FAREWELL TO YOU TOO.
I HAVE PARTED WITH TOO MANY WHO WERE DEAR TO ME...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR DEPARTING WITHOUT TELLING YOU.

NO, I SHOULD SAY— I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND TO RETURN TO THE PLACE WHERE I PARTED WITH MY BROTHER.

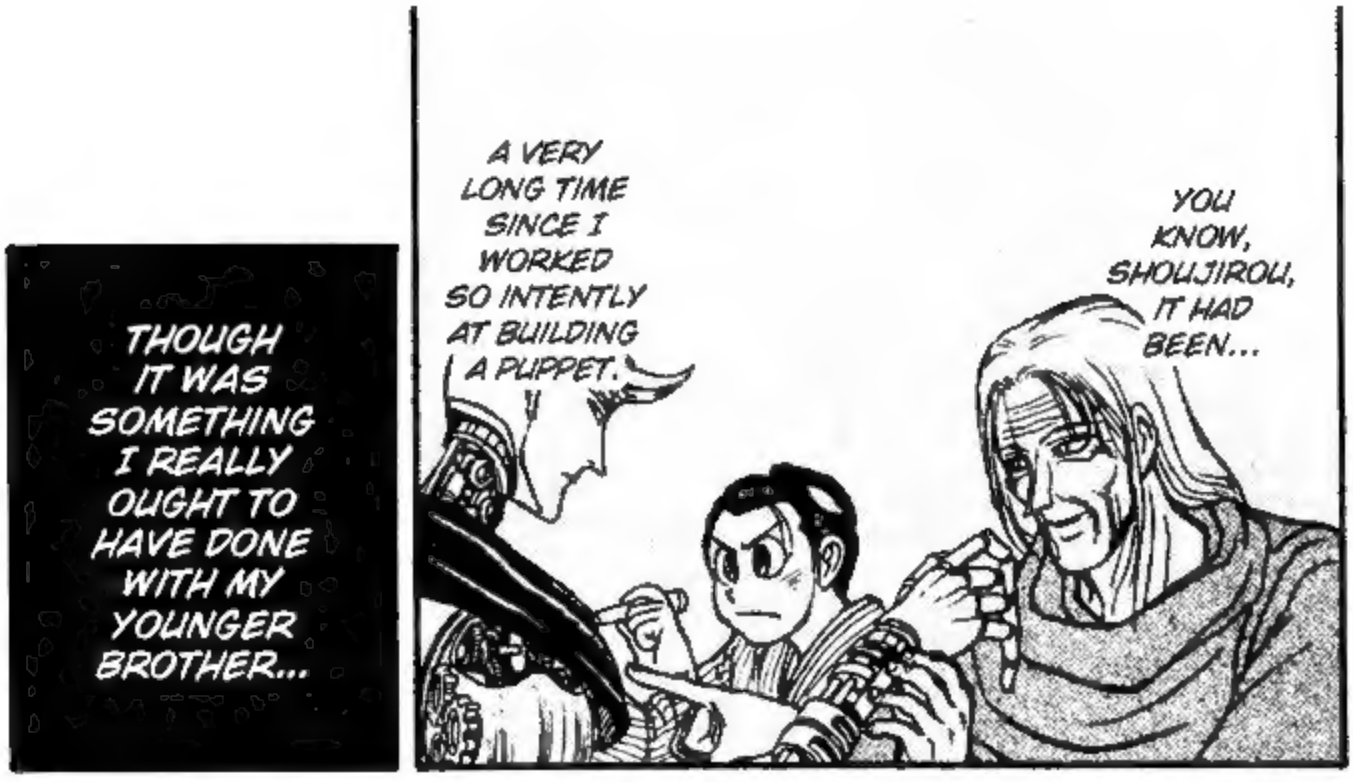

BUT SEEING THE END...
OF WHAT'S BEEN STARTED... THAT'S A BROTHER'S DUTY, ISN'T IT, SHOUJIROU?

LONG AGO, I RAN AWAY WITHOUT SEEING SOMETHING THROUGH TO TH' VERY FINISH.


YIN-SENSEI ...!
NO, IT AIN'T!!

AIN'T WE GONNA BUILD THAT PUPPET TOGETHER LIKE YA SAID WE WERE...?!

THERE'S STILL SO MUCH I WANNA LEARN FROM YA!


THOUGH IT WAS SOMETHING I REALLY OUGHT TO HAVE DONE WITH MY YOUNGER BROTHER...
A VERY LONG TIME SINCE I WORKED SO INTENTLY AT BUILDING A PUPPET.
YOU KNOW, SHOUJIROU, IT HAD BEEN...

TO BUILD KARAKURI DOLLS.
LET US WORK TOGETHER ONCE MORE...
IF WE EVER MEET AGAIN...

ホルプ

17

OH, REALLY? WHO'D YOU GET IT FROM? A COURTESAN AT THE MARUYAMA, MAYBE? OR WAS IT FROM THE KING?

I SUPPOSE SO. I WAS GIVEN A JAPANESE NAME HERE.
WHAT'S WRONG, JACOB? REGRETS OVER LEAVING NAGASAKI? YOU DID SPEND FOUR YEARS HERE.

SHOUJIROU-SAMA.

THANK YOU...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.